



## IN THE CLAIMS:

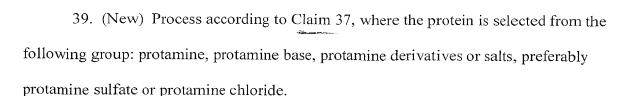
Please cancel claims 1-27 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please add the following new claims 28-50 as follows:

28. (New) Synthetic particle consisting of at least one nucleic acid sequence or nucleic acid derivative sequence and one protein having a molecular weight in the range from 3900 to 4300 and consisting predominantly of arginine.

- 29. (New) Synthetic particle according to Claim 28, where the protein is selected from the following group: protamine, protamine base, protamine derivatives or salts, preferably protamine sulfate or protamine chloride.
- 30. (New) Synthetic particle according to Claim 28, where the nucleic acid sequence is in single-stranded form.
- 31. (New) Synthetic particle according to Claim 28, where the nucleic acid sequence is an oligonucleotide or a derivative thereof.
- 32. (New) Synthetic particle according to Claim 31, where the oligonucleotide consists of at least 5 nucleotides.

- 33. (New) Synthetic particle according to Claim 31, where the derivative is a phosphorothioate or an anionic derivative.
- 34. (New) Synthetic particle according to Claim 28, where the average diameter of the particle is in the range from 10 nm to 100 gym.
- 35. (New) Synthetic particle according to Claim 28, where the particle carries a surface electric charge.
- 36. (New) Synthetic particle according to Claim 35, where the surface charge is in the range from -40 mV to +40 mV.
- 37. (New) Process for the preparation of synthetic particles according to any of the preceding claims, with the following steps:
- a) preparation of an aqueous first salt-free solution containing a protein having a molecular weight in the range from 3900 to 4300, the protein consisting predominantly of arginine,
- b) addition to the first solution of a second salt-free solution containing a nucleic acid sequence or nucleic acid derivative sequence and
  - c) mixing of the first and second solution.
- 38. (New) Process according to Claim 37, where the molar ratio of nucleic acid sequence or nucleic acid derivative sequence to protein is adjusted to produce a predetermined surface charge.



- 40. (New) Process according to Claim 39, where protamine, protamine base, protamine derivatives are obtained from salmon sperm.
- 41. (New) Process according to Claim 37, where the nucleic acid sequence is in single-stranded form.
- 42. (New) Process according to Claim 41, where the nucleic acid sequence is an oligonucleotide or a derivative thereof.
- 43. (New) Process according to Claim 42, where the oligonucleotide consists of at least 5 nucleotides.
- 44. (New) Process according to Claim 42, where the derivative is a phosphorothioate or an anionic derivative.
- 45. (New) Process according to Claim 37, where the diameter of the particle is in the range from 10 nm to  $100 \, \mu m$ .
- 46. (New) Process according to Claim 37, where the particle carries a surface electric charge.

- 47. (New) Process according to Claim 37, where the surface charge is in the range from -40 mV to  $\pm 40$  mV.
- 48. (New) Use of a protein having a molecular weight in the range from 3900 to 4300 and consisting predominantly of arginine for the preparation of a synthetic particle consisting of the protein and at least one nucleic acid sequence or nucleic acid derivative sequence.
- 49. (New) Use according to Claim 48, where the protein is selected from the following group: protamine, protamine base, protamine derivatives or salts, preferably protamine sulfate or protamine chloride.
- 50. (New) Use according to Claim 48, where the nucleic acid is an oligonucleotide which is preferably single stranded and preferably consists of at least 5 nucleotides, or a derivative thereof which is preferably in the form of a phosphorothicate.